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C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 000670

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/12/2018
TAGS: PREL PBTS UNSC GE PM
SUBJECT: PANAMA: GEORGIA UNSCR DEMARCHE DELIVERED

REF: STATE 86130

Classified By: AMBASSADOR BARBARA J. STEPHENSON. REASONS: 1.4 (D)

¶1. (C) "Panama is in favor of an immediate cessation of hostilities," First VP and FM Samuel Lewis told Ambassador in response to REFTEL demarche. Pressed that Panama's support would be essential especially in the event that Russia exercised its veto so that the Council could speak with the loudest voice possible, Lewis commented that he would prefer a "15-0" resolution to a "14-1" resolution in which Russia vetoed. Ambassador underscored that it was unlikely that an meaningful resolution could be crafted to ensure a unanimous vote on this matter; Lewis accepted the point.

¶2. (C) Comment: Panama is loathe to be party to either side of a split UNSC, even if Russia is isolated. Post will follow ambassadorial-level demarche with further engagement, to be reported SEPTEL, at the working level.

STEPHENSON